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Howdy!

S-E-C, S-E-C, S-E-C! Doesn't it feel good to finally be able to call Texas A&M an official member of the nation's premier athletic conference?

Okay, so maybe it's not officially "official" until July 1, 2012, but you know what I mean. The amount of hate coming from Waco, Austin and even some national media outlets towards A&M during the conference realignment adventure was starting to get a little old.

Unfortunately, it's becoming apparent now that the hate has not gone away. Instead, it has transformed into a mission by our neighbor universities to boycott the Aggies by refusing to play them in any sport for the foreseeable future. Remember when Baylor's Ken Starr was pleading to keep the precious state rivalries intact? That, my friends, is hypocrisy at its finest.

The truth is, the Longhorns will probably be just fine without playing the Aggies unless their season ticket holders start grumbling about their laughable home football schedule. However, if Waco's economy really is as dependent on Aggie fans visiting as Starr and company have led us to believe, then the Bears are only hurting themselves more by boycotting A&M teams.

Here's a news flash for our soon to be former conference mates... Texas A&M is going to be just fine without playing you ever again if that's what it comes to. The Aggies just joined the strongest conference in the country – so strong that it does not have any exit fees because no one wants to leave. Good luck keeping the Big 12 (-2-1+1-1?+1?) together for another few years as you force teams to sign all their rights away in blood.

For now, the Aggies shall continue their Big 12 farewell tour. They have already secured "scoreboard" over Texas Tech and Baylor, and the final meeting with Texas is just around the corner. It really is a shame that bruised egos in Austin have killed one of the most storied rivalries in all of college athletics, but, alas, life will go on.

As President Loftin said, this was a 100-year decision for Texas A&M, and I will always admire him for making it and sticking with it through all of the obstacles he faced along the way.

Lastly, here are several things to look forward to when the Aggies do "officially" join the SEC next summer:

Conference pride: It might take an adjustment period to get used to a conference where each school supports one another when facing opponents from other conferences.

Tailgating: Aggies who think they know how to tailgate are in for an awakening when they go on SEC road trips and see pregame festivities that are on another level.

Mascots: Reveille will have some canine company in the SEC with UGA (Georgia's English bulldog), Smokey (Tennessee's bluetick coonhound) and Bully (Mississippi State's English bulldog).

School spirit: Texas A&M will feel right at home with the tradition-rich schools in the SEC, however, the Aggies may have to make some changes in seating for students and the band to comply with conference rules. With change in the air, perhaps it's time for A&M to add a pom squad (in addition to yell leaders) to the already stellar game day atmosphere.

Gig'em Ags!

Brian '01

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snapshot



record day

Ryan Tannehill, Uzoma Nwachukwu and Jeff Fuller sing *The Spirit of Aggieland* before the Idaho game. In front of the third-largest non-conference crowd in school history (86,623), Fuller added to his school records list by eclipsing Terrence Murphy's 172 career receptions. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



TEXAS A&M

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snapshot

Mr. Mike Slive



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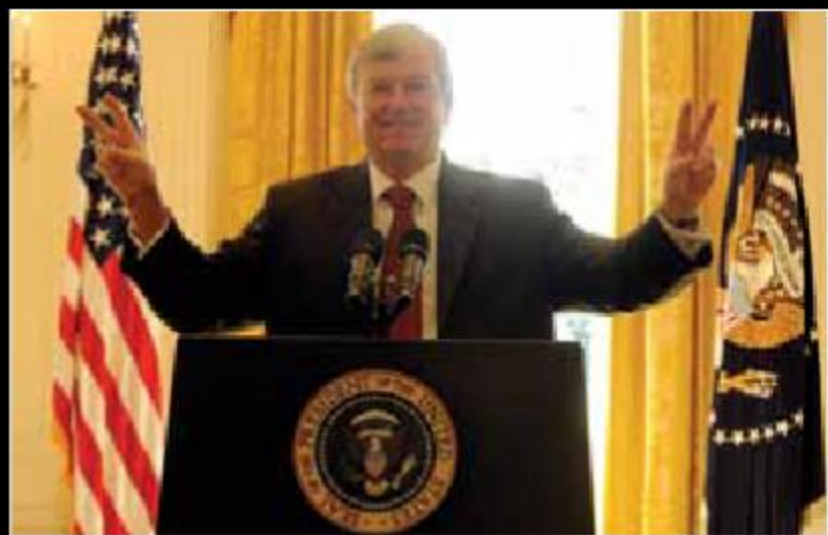
Dr. R. Bowen Loftin
President
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welcome to the sec

Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive and Texas A&M University president Dr. R. Bowen Loftin answer questions from the media during the Aggies' SEC celebration at the Kyle Field Zone Club. This historic event was scheduled and reschedule multiple times throughout A&M's conference realignment adventure. Photo by Jason McConnell '01 (Inset by Brian Davis '01).

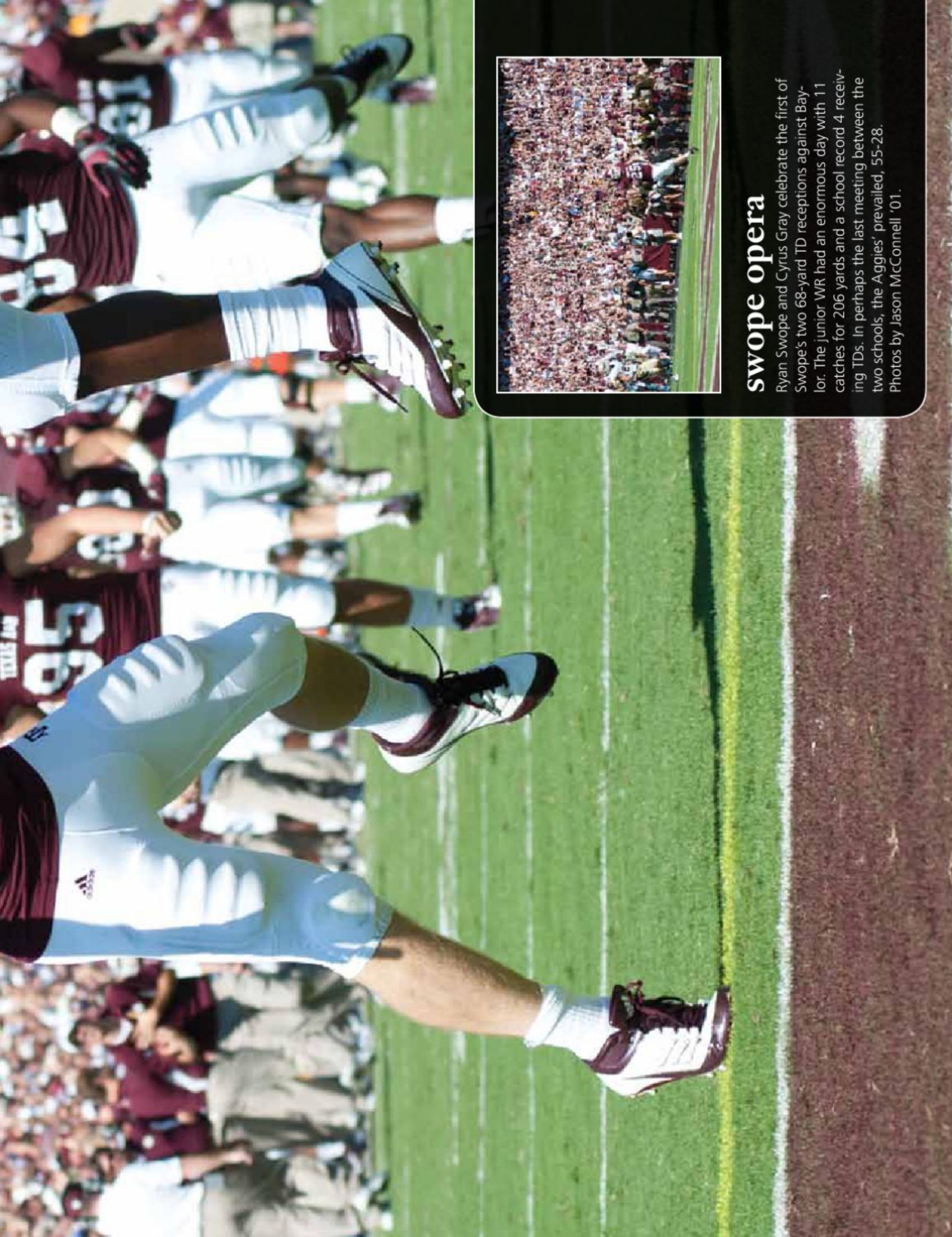




royal treatment

President Obama congratulates the national champion Texas A&M women's basketball team at the White House Rose Garden. Coach Gary Blair presented Obama with jerseys for himself and the first lady, and the president gave Logan Burch (left), Blair's grandson, a note excusing his absence from school. While in DC, the Aggies toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the U.S. Capitol and the White House, and held a youth clinic at the White House basketball court. Photos by Texas A&M Athletics Media Relations.





swope opera

Ryan Swope and Cyrus Gray celebrate the first of Swope's two 68-yard TD receptions against Baylor. The junior WR had an enormous day with 11 catches for 206 yards and a school record 4 receiving TDs. In perhaps the last meeting between the two schools, the Aggies' prevailed, 55-28.

Photos by Jason McConnell '01.



heisman buster

Jonathan Stewart sacks Robert Griffin III late in the third quarter of the Baylor game. Despite giving up a lot of passing yards, the A&M defense mostly held Baylor in check, sacking Griffin five times on the way to a 55-28 win. Griffin's Heisman hopes were put in serious jeopardy with another loss, but he was gracious in defeat – something his head coach could learn a thing or two from him about. Photos by Jason McConnell '01.





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Recruiting in **the SEC** BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

Now that the Ags are officially on their way to the Southeastern Conference, big changes are on the horizon on the recruiting trail.

First and foremost, Texas A&M is going to have to recruit some SEC caliber athletes. Those players typically have three characteristics: Size, speed and some nasty combinations of both.

When A&M played LSU in the Cotton Bowl, it was obvious to even the most casual observer that the Aggies didn't have enough talent and depth to compete for four quarters against the Tigers. Less than a year later, LSU sits atop the national rankings with one of the biggest, fastest and deepest squads in the country.

On one hand, that should make Aggie fans feel a little better about that Cotton Bowl loss. On the other hand, A&M will have to play the Tigers every season beginning in 2012 in addition to Arkansas, Alabama, Auburn and the rest of the teams in the nation's premier athletic conference. That means the Aggies will need to close the talent gap between their future SEC foes in order to climb to the top. What's the solution? Well, not

to oversimplify, but the answer lies in the lifeblood of collegiate athletics – recruiting.

SEC battles are typically won and lost in the trenches, so the Aggies' first priority is building some quality depth along the defensive line. Texas A&M has hosted several defensive linemen recruits for games this fall, including five star Aziz Shittu (6-3, 275) of Atwater, CA and a pair of junior college standouts – Damien Jacobs (6-4, 300) of East Mississippi Community College and Darrington Sentimore (6-3, 295) of Gulf Coast Community College in Mississippi. While landing any of these three would be considered a tremendous coup, the Aggies will need to sign at least two, and perhaps as many as four prospects who are at or near their caliber.

Currently, the Aggies have just two defensive linemen committed – Blinn's Logan David (6-4, 345) and Long Beach Poly's Alonzo Williams (6-5, 240). Unfortunately, David's academic status is somewhat of an unknown, and Williams has frequented the USC and UCLA campuses since moving to the Golden State.



AZIZ SHITTU (DL)
Atwater, Calif.

Although it's going to be a tough road to tow, A&M defensive line coach Terrell Williams is one of the best recruiters on staff, and his ability to sell guaranteed immediate playing time in the nation's best football conference should make the Aggies a premier destination for some of the most coveted defensive linemen in the nation. **AJ**



LSU: BRIAN DAVIS '01/SHITTU: MARCI STENBERG, SUN-STAR



KELSEY BLACK (SR)
Amarillo, Tex.



RACHAEL BALAGUER (SR)
Austin, Tex.

(volleyball) Coming off a disappointing season in 2010, Texas A&M began the year winning its first nine matches and capturing three tournament titles. The Aggies came within one win of matching the best start in school history. Finishing matches has been the key to the Aggies' turnaround, as they have already won more matches this season than they did in 2010 and have won several key matches in five sets. A strong finish in conference play should lead to a return trip to the NCAA tournament following a one year absence. **(soccer)** The Aggies' slow start was a little surprising considering how dominate the program has been in recent years, but not totally unexpected due to all the new faces on the roster and a challenging schedule. However, the young players grew up in a hurry when the team upset No. 1 North Carolina midway through the season. From there, the Aggies haven't looked back, dominating their conference opponents in their last Big 12 season. With the regular season coming to a close, the Aggies are positioned to defend their conference title as well as compete for the tournament crown before moving on to their 17th consecutive NCAA tournament.



BRIANCA BRINSON (FR)
Austin, Tex.

7



QUESTIONS FOR ALLIE SAWATZKY

How did you get interested in volleyball?

I have two older sisters. We were all into sports, but my middle sister went to play volleyball at Oregon State and that's what sparked my interest in playing and going to school in the states. She loved it and my dad knew how to get in touch with the schools. I played on a pretty good high school team. We won provincials (state) four years in a row.

How did you find Texas A&M from Manitoba, Canada?

My dad and I did some research and contacted schools that needed a setter. We sent letters and if they replied, we sent videos. Laurie [Corbelli] came up to Canada to watch me play.

How did you become a setter?

When I was in the sixth grade, I was a soft-ball pitcher. I got hurt and they thought I had cracked my growth plate. They never figured out what it was, but I couldn't hit and I wanted to play volleyball. I wanted to be like my sister. So the coach told me to set. I did and it just stuck. I probably wouldn't have chosen it, but I like it now.

What makes a good setter?

Having a great team that kills the ball and passes the ball really well. Everyone does that here and it makes my job really easy.

At what point do you know which way you're going to set the ball for your teammates?

It depends. Usually on serve-receive I have it figured out, and I try to watch the block. Other times it's just a spur of the moment decision. My teammates don't know which way it's going until I hit it.

Were you surprised that you started every game last year as a freshman?

I knew there were two setters graduating and there was another freshman, Allie Freiwald, coming in who I would have to compete with for the job. We all compete with each other every day in practice just as hard as we compete in games against our opponents and it keeps me on edge.

What did the struggles last year teach you and the team?

We had eight or nine five-set matches that we lost. We learned that we have to keep pushing the whole way and can't give up. All that work we did in the first four sets doesn't matter if we lose the fifth. The experience of knowing how it feels to lose and not get what you want is pushing us even harder this year. **AT**

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THE PERFECT MATCH

From Birmingham to Chapel Hill to College Station, Merritt Mathias found her home

BY KAYLIE MYNAR '12

Not many college athletes can say they won with their dream school and also won against them. That is reality for Merritt Mathias, a senior soccer player at Texas A&M.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Ala., Mathias began playing soccer at a very early age.

"You wouldn't know it now, but I was one of the shyest kids in class," Mathias admitted.

In fact, her kindergarten teacher recommended that Mathias get involved in sports to build her confidence level. Taking the teacher's advice, her parents tried her out in softball and soccer.

"After my dad watched a softball game and a soccer game, he said, 'I am not watching softball in 102 degree heat in the summer, so you're playing soccer,'" Mathias recalled laughing.

It worked out for the best, as Mathias was a natural on the soccer field. She grew up idolizing soccer hall of famer and fellow Alabama native Mia Hamm. In college, Hamm was an All-American who led North Carolina to four national championships.

"I wanted to go to North Carolina and be just like Mia Hamm," Mathias said. "I wanted to be that player, so I did everything I could to make that happen."

Mathias graduated from Oak Mountain HS in 2008 and fulfilled her dream of becoming a Tar Heel as one of the top-ranked recruits in the nation. As a freshman, she played in 20 matches including one in College Station, Texas against Texas A&M.

Mathias was blown away by the atmosphere in Aggieland and she was exposed to Texas A&M soccer several more times by the end of her sophomore season. At that point, she knew it was time to make a change and that Aggieland was where she wanted to be.

As a first-year transfer at A&M in 2010, Mathias started 20 matches, scoring a team third-best nine goals. She was named



MERRITT MATHIAS (SR)
Birmingham, Ala.

to the All-Big 12 first team and the Big 12 All-Newcomer team.

Now a senior, Mathias is one of the leaders of a young Aggie team. The youthful roster was prevalent in A&M's first seven matches of the season. Two days after a disappointing 7-2 loss to No. 6 Duke at the Duke Nike Classic, the team was 4-3 and facing Mathias' old team – No. 1 North Carolina. The Aggies were about to grow up in a hurry and Mathias was ready.

"The atmosphere felt different," she recalled. "Something was there that had not been all season."

North Carolina scored to take a 3-1 lead early in the second half, but the Aggies never gave up. In the 71st minute, junior Nora Skelton put in a goal after a great pass from Mathias, cutting the lead to one. Then, on a corner kick, Mathias put the ball on freshman Meghan Streight's head and she finished it, tying the game. The Tar Heels couldn't get past the swarming Aggie defense as the clock ran out in regulation.

"I looked around at my team and we were still ready to play, but North Carolina was on their knees, exhausted," Mathias recalled. "Momentum and everything was on our side. This was the perfect storm for it to go our way."

The team was ready for overtime. The Aggies won possession of the opening throw in and quickly got the ball to Shea Groom. The speedy freshman zoomed past defenders and scored the golden goal to give Texas A&M its second victory all-time against the 21-time national champion Tar Heels.

"I was so proud of Shea to be a freshman in that situation and handle it like she's been here for four years," Mathias said. "I give credit to her and the team. It was amazing."

The match was only the second time in UNC history that the team gave up three consecutive goals. Needless to say, emotions ran high after the Aggies pulled off the unlikely 4-3 overtime victory, especially for Mathias.

"I looked at Phil [Coach Phil Stephenson], grabbed him and just started crying," Mathias said.

It was a special moment for the former Tar Heel – beating her former school. Head coach G. Guerrieri credited Mathias for not only playing her heart out on the field, but also raising the rest of the team to another level to win the game.

Now on the verge of starting postseason play, Mathias knows the Aggies will likely see North Carolina again if they go as deep in the NCAA tournament as they hope to. If that happens, Mathias will make sure they are ready.

"It's always hard to beat a team twice, but it's always fun." **AT**





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Good luck in the SEC!



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SEC Commissioner



WELCOME TO THE SEC

Texas A&M's persistence pays off
at the end of a wild conference
realignment roller coaster

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01 AND
JASON MCCONNELL '01

BRIAN DAVIS '01

On September 26, 2011, it was finally time for Texas A&M to have its day in the sun. What began with a phone call in late July, finally culminated with a jubilant celebration on a beautiful September day at The Zone Club inside Kyle Field.

"This is an historic time in Aggieland," Texas A&M president R. Bowen Loftin proclaimed. "Yesterday, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) – the nation's preeminent collegiate athletic conference – invited Texas A&M to become its 13th member, effective July 1, 2012. And we have accepted enthusiastically."

Like Texas A&M, eight SEC institutions were created as land-grant universities. And, like A&M, SEC members celebrate their rich history and unique traditions. It's a natural fit for many more reasons, yet it still seems surreal that it has finally happened.

In the following pages, AI takes a closer look at the SEC and Texas A&M's journey to get to its new home.



CURRENT SEC BOWL TIE-INS

The Southeastern Conference has nine bowl tie-ins.



Sugar Bowl (New Orleans, LA)
SEC #1 vs. BCS

Capital One Bowl (Orlando, FL)
SEC #2 vs. Big Ten #2

Outback Bowl (Tampa, FL)
SEC #3/4 vs. Big Ten #3

Cotton Bowl Classic (Arlington, TX)
SEC #3/4 vs. Big 12 #2

Chick-fil-A Bowl (Atlanta, GA)
SEC #5 vs. ACC #2

Gator Bowl (Jacksonville, FL)
SEC #6 vs. Big Ten #4/5

Liberty Bowl (Memphis, TN)
SEC #7/8 vs. Conf USA #1

Music City Bowl (Nashville, TN)
SEC #7/8 vs. ACC #6

BBVA Compass Bowl (Birmingham, AL)
SEC #9 vs. Big East #5

AI'S DREAM 2012 TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

If AI was in charge of scheduling, this is who the Aggies would be facing in football next season:

9/1 Rice

The Aggies and the Owls haven't played in football since the Southwest Conference broke up. What better time to renew that rivalry as A&M begins its first season in the Southeast Conference.

9/8 Florida

The Gators come to Kyle Field for a nationally televised SEC kick-off game to introduce the newest member of the premier conference in the country.

9/15 at SMU

The Aggies make the short trip up to Dallas to take on another former SWC rival.

9/22 Air Force

Tim DeRuyter's Alma mater comes to Kyle Field for an intriguing non-conference match-up.

9/29 at Ole Miss

The Aggies get their first taste of what game day atmospheres are going to be like in the SEC.

10/6 Arkansas (Cowboys Stadium)

There are pros and cons for continuing to play this game in Arlington as a conference game, but since most big decisions come down to money, there is a good chance it stays put for now.

10/13 Auburn

Texas A&M owns a 2-0 record against the Tigers with the last meeting coming in the unforgettable 1986 Cotton Bowl where the Aggies stopped Heisman winner Bo Jackson on four tries at the end zone.

10/20 Bye Week

Hopefully an SEC schedule will be more friendly to Texas A&M when it comes to bye weeks. They never do much good the second week of the season.

10/27 at Tennessee

The Aggies get a shot at revenge for the 2005 Cotton Bowl nightmare.

11/3 Louisiana-Lafayette

A late season non-conference game against the Rajin' Cajuns at Kyle Field.

11/10 at Alabama

Texas A&M has only beaten the Crimson Tide once in four tries and that was in the 1968 Cotton Bowl when "Bear" Bryant give his protégé Gene Stallings a ride off the field on his shoulders after the game.

11/17 at Mississippi State

The Aggies and Bulldogs last met in the infamous Snow Bowl in 2000 against former A&M head coach Jackie Sherrill. The overall series is tied at 2 wins apiece.

11/23 LSU

Currently LSU plays Arkansas the day after Thanksgiving, but with Texas taking their ball and going home, an Aggies-Tigers match-up could be one heck of a replacement game.

Editor's Note: AI's proposed schedule is based off of speculation that Missouri (East) will join Texas A&M (West) in the SEC in 2012 and that each team will play eight conference games.

2011 A&M to SEC Timeline

The Texas A&M Board of Regents meet and discuss the current state of affairs of the Big 12 Conference. Following the meeting, president R. Bowen Loftin describes the Big 12's current situation as uncertain, problematic and troubling.

President Loftin calls Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive to initiate conversations about Texas A&M joining the SEC.

July 21



"The Midnight Yell" blog unveils the details of the contract between the University of Texas and ESPN for the Longhorn Network (themidnightyell.blogspot.com).

August 7

Big 12 athletic directors and presidents meet via teleconference to discuss the future of Texas A&M in the conference.

President Loftin meets with Texas A&M head coaches to discuss the SEC.

August 13

The SEC presidents meet to discuss the criteria and process associated with expansion, but take no action in regards to adding members. Multiple media outlets report this as the SEC declining to offer A&M an invitation to the league.

August 14

Baylor president Ken Starr writes an op-ed in USA Today that "one institution's rumored conference shift has caused an earthquake that threatens to set off a tsunami of changes around much of the country."

August 17



August 12

"S-E-C" chants break out during A&M's summer commencement ceremony.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents post a meeting for August 15, to discuss "conference alignment."

August 11

State Rep. Dan Branch, chairman of the Texas House Committee on Higher Education, calls a hearing for August 16 to discuss A&M's possible move to the SEC.



August 16

Economist Ray Perryman releases a report claiming that if A&M were to leave the Big 12, the state would lose 3,050 jobs and \$217.2 million each year.

August 15

The Texas House Committee on Higher Education cancels the hearing to discuss A&M's possible move to the SEC.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents give President Loftin authority to negotiate all conference matters. Loftin calls his task a "100-year decision."



August 1

In response to concerns about the Longhorn Network's attempt to televise high school football games, the Big 12 Conference agrees to a one-year moratorium on broadcasting high school games on member networks.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE MILESTONES

The SEC, with its storied 78-year history of athletic achievements and academic excellence, has built perhaps the greatest tradition of intercollegiate competition of any league in the country since its inception in 1933.

1932: The SEC is formed with 13 members of the Southern Conference: Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Sewanee, Tennessee, Tulane and Vanderbilt.

1940: Sewanee withdraws from the SEC.

1951: The Alabama-Tennessee football game in Birmingham's Legion Field becomes the first televised event in SEC history.

1964: Georgia Tech withdraws from the SEC.

1965: Kentucky football's Nat Northington becomes the first African-American to receive an athletic scholarship at an SEC institution.

1966: Tulane withdraws from the SEC.

1990: The University of Arkansas and the University of South Carolina become the 11th and 12th members of the SEC.



DISTANCE FROM AGGIELAND TO CURRENT SEC SCHOOLS

SEC West	Miles
Alabama (Tuscaloosa)	630
Arkansas (Fayetteville)	500
Auburn (Auburn)	750
LSU (Baton Rouge)	340
Mississippi State (Starkville)	570
Ole Miss (Oxford)	570
SEC East	Miles
Florida (Gainesville)	925
Georgia (Athens)	895
Kentucky (Lexington)	985
South Carolina (Columbia)	1,035
Tennessee (Knoxville)	935
Vanderbilt (Nashville)	775

TOP 10 CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT TWEETERS

Media members, Aggie fans and a fake conference commissioner top our list of the best tweeters during Texas A&M's conference realignment adventure:



01. @DanBeebe
Fake Big 12 Commissioner



02. @RichardJustice
Houston Chronicle



03. @Andy_Staples
Sports Illustrated



04. @BillyLiucci
TexAgs.com



05. @BrentZuerneman
San Antonio Express-News



06. @ClayTravisBGID
Outkick the Coverage



07. @jason_cook
A&M VP of Marketing



08. @HopWebsider
Aggie Websider



09. @spadilly
Aggie Fan



10. @Ranger222
Aggie Fan



The SEC is notified that at least one institution (Baylor) is withdrawing its previous consent and is considering legal action.

SEC presidents vote unanimously to accept A&M as the league's 13th member upon receiving acceptable reconfirmation that the Big 12 and its members have reaffirmed the letter from September 2.

September 6

Oklahoma makes demands from the Big 12 for them to stay in the conference, including firing Dan Beebe.

The Pac 12 announces that it has no intentions of expanding. OU president David Boren responds saying his school decided not to apply to the Pac 12.

September 20



Texas A&M receives a letter from Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe outlining the withdrawal procedures.

August 29



Texas A&M notifies the Big 12 that the institution will submit an application to join another athletic conference, and if accepted, A&M will end its membership in the Big 12 effective June 30, 2012.

August 31

Mike Slive states that in 78 years, the SEC has only accepted membership applications from three institutions – Arkansas, South Carolina and now Texas A&M. "When Texas A&M joins our conference, we don't have immediate plans for a 14th member."

September 12

Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds says the university is focused on "the Big 12, period" and vows that he and other conference leaders will take steps to ensure the long-term stability of the league.

September 21



Dan Beebe fired as Big 12 commissioner.

September 22

August 25

Texas A&M notifies the Big 12 that it is exploring options related to the institution's athletic conference affiliation. Texas A&M also requested that the Big 12 outline the process to be followed should the university elect to withdraw from the conference.

September 2

Dan Beebe sends a letter to Mike Slive proclaiming that the Big 12 and its members will not take any legal action against the SEC relating to A&M's departure from the conference.

Oklahoma president David Boren adds more uncertainty to the Big 12's future by saying OU will not be a wallflower during conference realignment.



September 19

Board of Regents at Oklahoma and Texas meet to empower their presidents to make decisions on conference affiliation.

A group of A&M fans put up a billboard near Baylor's football stadium in Waco as a friendly reminder to the Bears that "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's conference deal."



September 26

Texas A&M hosts an official kick-off celebration in The Zone Club with Dr. Bernie Machen and Mike Slive finally welcoming the Aggies to the SEC.

September 25

The SEC announces that Texas A&M will officially join the conference as its 13th member on July 1, 2012.



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Population 90,468)
Founded in 1831 as Alabama's first public college.

Enrollment **30,232**
Nickname **CRIMSON TIDE**
Colors **CRIMSON AND WHITE**

All-Time Record **802-319-43**
Home Record **296-63-3**

Stadium **BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM**
Capacity **101,821** (Grass)
Average Home Attendance **101,821**

Mascot **"BIG AL"** (Costumed Elephant)
Officially debuted at the 1979 Sugar Bowl, when Alabama beat Penn State for the national title.

Football Coach **NICK SABAN**
Record at School **38-11**
Overall Record **144-70-1**

Bowl Record **32-22-3**
Most Recent **2011 CAPITAL ONE BOWL**

National Championships **13** (Most Recent **2009**)
SEC Championships **22** (Most Recent **2009**)

Rivals **AUBURN** (Iron Bowl)
TENNESSEE (Third Saturday in October)

Alabama vs. Texas A&M
A&M's Record **1-3** (Most Recent **1988**)
Notable Game **1968 COTTON BOWL**
TEXAS A&M 20, #8 ALABAMA 16
A&M head coach Gene Stallings met his former college coach, Alabama's "Bear" Bryant, and his Aggies won their seventh straight game. Bryant, facing A&M for the first time since his departure following the 1957 season, gave Stallings a ride off the field on his shoulders after the game.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
SOFTBALL (2010, 2011)
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS (2009, 2011)

Notable Alumni **JOE NAMATH, BART STARR, DERRICK THOMAS, PAUL "BEAR" BRYANT, SELA WARD**

Comprised of over 330 students, the **MILLION DOLLAR BAND** is the largest single organization on campus. It began as a military band in 1914 and has become widely known for its colorful half-time presentations and has appeared on national television more often than any other college band.

The **"RAMMER JAMMER CHEER"** was a pregame ritual until the early 2000s, chanting "We're gonna' beat the hell out of you!", but this was considered unsportsmanlike and banned. The university also briefly forbade the band from playing it after games, because of its taunting nature and its use of the word "hell." That was met with significant criticism with 98 percent of students voting in favor of keeping the cheer. Now the cheer is only played in the closing minutes when victory is certain.

Editor's Note: Most of the statistics in this feature are as of August 1, 2011.



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Fayetteville, Ark. (Population 73,580)
Founded as Arkansas Industrial University in 1871.

Enrollment **21,406**
Nickname **RAZORBACKS**
Colors **CARDINAL RED AND WHITE**

All-Time Record **669-450-40**
Home Record **442-177-14**

Stadium **DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK**
Capacity **72,000** (SportsExe PowerBlade HP Turf)
Average Home Attendance **68,961**

Mascot **"TUSK"** (Live Russian Boar)
Tusk III was born in August 2002 and weighs 475 pounds. Costumed Mascots **"BIG RED"** (Male Razorback), **"SUE E."** (Female Razorback), **"PORK CHOP"** (Child-Sized Razorback) and **"BOSS HOG"** (9-Foot-Tall Inflatable).

Football Coach **BOBBY PETRINO**
Record at School **23-15**
Overall Record **67-34**

Bowl Record **12-23-3**
Most Recent **2011 ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL**

National Championships **1** (Most Recent **1964**)
SEC Championships **0**

Rivals **LSU** (The Battle for the Golden Boot)
OLE MISS (Nutt Bowl)

Arkansas vs. Texas A&M
A&M's Record **24-41-3** (Most Recent **2011**)
Texas A&M and Arkansas played annually as members of the Southwest Conference until the Razorbacks left for the SEC in 1992. The Aggies won the last two SWC meetings, but Arkansas has come out on top the past three seasons in the annual Southwest Classic match-up.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)
MEN'S INDOOR TRACK (2006)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (2010)
MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011)

Notable Alumni **JERRY JONES, CLIFF LEE, JOHN DALY, PAT SUMMERALL, BARRY SWITZER**

Fans of the University of Arkansas have been **"CALLING THE HOGS"** since the 1920s. This tradition, which refers to the school's most popular cheer at sporting events, is said to have begun when a group of farmers attending a game began issuing hog calls to encourage a lagging Razorback football team. The encouragement worked and the attending crowd took notice of the farmers' calling. By the next game, a group of men had organized to cry "Wooo, Pig, Sooiie."

One of the oldest collegiate bands in the country, the **RAZORBACK MARCHING BAND** was formed in 1874 as the Cadet Corps Band in the Military Art Department. The band participated in all the formalities of the Military Art Department, as well as playing for football games, pageants and commencement exercises. In 1947, following a steady post World War II growth, the Cadet Corp Band was divided into the three current bands, a football band, a concert band and an R.O.T.C. band.





AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn, Ala. (Population 53,380)

Chartered in 1856 as the East Alabama Male College – a private liberal arts school affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Enrollment **25,078**

Nickname **TIGERS**

Colors **BURNT ORANGE AND NAVY BLUE**

All-Time Record **703-400-47**

Home Record **273-67-7**

Stadium **JORDAN-HARE STADIUM**

Capacity **87,451** (Grass)

Average Home Attendance **86,087**

Mascot **"AUBIE"** (Costumed Tiger)

Has won a record six mascot national titles.

Football Coach **GENE CHIZIK**

Record at School **22-5**

Overall Record **27-24**

Bowl Record **21-13-2**

Most Recent **2010 BCS CHAMPIONSHIP**

National Championships **2** (Most Recent **2010**)

SEC Championships **7** (Most Recent **2010**)

Rivals **ALABAMA** (Iron Bowl)

GEORGIA (Deep South's Oldest Rivalry)

Auburn vs. Texas A&M

A&M's Record **2-0** (Most Recent **1986**)

Notable Game **1986 COTTON BOWL**

#11 TEXAS A&M 36, #16 AUBURN 16

A&M stopped Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson on four tries at the end zone early in the fourth quarter to turn away Auburn's last shot at the lead before pulling away to a victory.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

EQUESTRIAN (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING (1997-2011)

WOMEN'S GOLF (2009, 2011)

Notable Alumni **CHARLES BARKLEY, CAM NEWTON, TIM COOK (APPLE), BO JACKSON**

A live golden eagle can be found at Auburn athletic events, however, it's not a mascot or nickname... it signifies the school's battle cry, **WAR EAGLE**. The most popular story of its origin comes from Auburn's first game against Georgia in 1892. A Civil War veteran brought his pet eagle with him that he had found on a battlefield during the war. The eagle suddenly broke free and began majestically circling the playing field and the Tigers began marching down the field for a thrilling victory. Auburn fans began to yell "War Eagle" to spur on their team. At the game's end, the eagle took a sudden dive, crashed into the ground, and died.

The intersection of Magnolia and College streets in Auburn is known as **TOOMER'S CORNER**. It is named after Toomer's Drugs, a small store on the corner that has been a landmark for over 150 years. Hanging over the corner are two massive old-growth oak trees, and anytime anything good happens concerning Auburn, toilet paper can usually be found hanging from the trees. It's also known as "rolling the corner."



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Baton Rouge, La. (Population 229,553)

Founded in 1853 under the name Louisiana State Seminary of Learning & Military Academy.

Enrollment **27,992**

Nickname **TIGERS**

Colors **PURPLE AND GOLD**

All-Time Record **720-389-47**

Home Record **379-143-18**

Stadium **TIGER STADIUM ("DEATH VALLEY")**

Capacity **92,400** (Grass)

Average Home Attendance **92,718**

Live and Costumed Mascot **"MIKE THE TIGER"**

Opposing players must pass by Mike's cage in order to reach their locker room.

Football Coach **LES MILES**

Record at School **62-17**

Overall Record **90-38**

Bowl Record **22-19-1**

Most Recent **2011 AT&T COTTON BOWL**

National Championships **3** (Most Recent **2007**)

SEC Championships **10** (Most Recent **2007**)

Rivals **TULANE** (The Battle for the Rag)

OLE MISS (Magnolia Bowl)

LSU vs. Texas A&M

A&M's Record **20-27-3** (Most Recent **2011**)

The Aggies have matched up against LSU more than any other non-conference opponent. The teams first met in College Station in 1899, with A&M winning, 52-0. The Tigers are the Aggies' seventh-oldest collegiate-football rivalry. At home, the Aggies are 7-1-1 in the series.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

BASEBALL (2009)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011)

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD (2011)

Notable Alumni **SHAQUILLE O'NEAL, PETE MARAVICH, HUBERT HUMPHREY, JAMES CARVILLE**

Tiger fans from every corner of the region arrive as early as Thursday evening for Saturday games, set up their motor homes and tents and kick back for a weekend of **TAILGATING** for two days until kickoff. A stroll across the LSU campus and through the parking lots is a veritable connoisseur's treat. Common entrees include crawfish, boiled shrimp and jambalaya and, on occasion, one will run across a cochon-de-lait (pig roast). Visiting team fans are often heckled with chants of "Tiger Bait! Tiger Bait!"

LSU is one of the few college football teams that traditionally wear **WHITE JERSEYS** for home games. The tradition originated when LSU wore white jerseys at home for the 1958 season and won its first national championship. The tradition continued until 1983, when a new NCAA rule prohibited teams from wearing white jerseys at home. In 1995, LSU's new coach, Gerry DiNardo, petitioned the NCAA and was successful, and LSU again began wearing white jerseys at home.





MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Starkville, Miss. (Population 23,888)
Created in 1878 as *The Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Mississippi*.

Enrollment **20,000**
Nickname **BULLDOGS**
Colors **MAROON AND WHITE**

All-Time Record **499-538-39**
Home Record **223-127-13**

Stadium **DAVIS WADE STADIUM**
Capacity **55,082** (Prescription Athletic Turf)
Average Home Attendance **54,999**

Mascot **"BULLY"** (English Bulldog)
In 1939, Bully I was hit by a campus bus and then buried under the bench on the 50-yard line after a long funeral procession.

Football Coach **DAN MULLEN**
Record at School **14-11**
Overall Record **14-11**

Bowl Record **9-6**
Most Recent **2011 GATOR BOWL**

National Championships **0**
SEC Championships **1** (Most Recent **1941**)

Rivals **OLE MISS** (Egg Bowl)

Mississippi State vs. Texas A&M
A&M's Record **2-2** (Most Recent **2000**)
Notable Game **2000 INDEPENDENCE BOWL**
MISSISSIPPI STATE 43, TEXAS A&M 41
The infamous "snow bowl" marked the only meeting between Texas A&M and their former coach, Jackie Sherrill.

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
MEN'S BASKETBALL (2009)
BASEBALL (2005)

Notable Alumni **JOHN GRISHAM, RAFAEL PALMEIRO, WILL CLARK, BUCK SHOWALTER**

*The most unique and certainly the most resounding symbol of Mississippi State University tradition is the **COWBELL**. Despite decades of attempts by opponents and authorities to banish it from scenes of competition, diehard State fans still celebrate Bulldog victories loudly and proudly with the distinctive sound of ringing cowbells. The most popular legend is that during a home football game between State and arch-rival Mississippi, a jersey cow wandered onto the playing field. Mississippi State soundly whipped the Rebels that Saturday, and State College students immediately adopted the cow as a good luck charm. Students are said to have continued bringing a cow to football games for a while, until the practice was eventually discontinued in favor of bringing just the cow's bell.*

*The first squads representing Mississippi A&M College were proud to be called **AGGIES**, and when the school officially became Mississippi State College in 1932 the nickname Maroons, for State's uniform color, gained prominence. Bulldogs became the official title for State teams in 1961, not long after State College was granted university status.*



UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Oxford, Miss. (Population 14,147)
Chartered in 1844 as *Mississippi's first public institution of higher learning*.

Enrollment **19,536**
Nickname **REBELS**
Colors **CARDINAL RED AND NAVY BLUE**

All-Time Record **619-476-35**
Home Record **225-78-8**

Stadium **VAUGHT-HEMINGWAY STADIUM**
Capacity **60,580** (FieldTurf)
Average Home Attendance **55,898**

Mascot **"REBEL BLACK BEAR"** (Costumed Bear)
Replaced Colonel Reb as the official mascot in 2010.

Football Coach **HOUSTON NUTT**
Record at School **22-16**
Overall Record **133-86**

Bowl Record **21-12**
Most Recent **2010 AT&T COTTON BOWL**

National Championships **3** (Most Recent **1962**)
SEC Championships **6** (Most Recent **1963**)

Rivals **MISSISSIPPI STATE** (Egg Bowl)
LSU (Magnolia Bowl)

Ole Miss vs. Texas A&M
A&M's Record **4-0** (Most Recent **1980**)
Texas A&M and Ole Miss have only met four times on the football field, with the Aggies winning each contest.

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
BASEBALL (2006, 2009)

Notable Alumni **WILLIAM FAULKNER, ARCHIE MANNING, ELI MANNING, MICHAEL OHER (THE BLIND SIDE)**

*The school's nickname – **OLE MISS** – was created in 1896, when it was selected in a contest held to identify a new student publication, the yearbook. The name gradually became synonymous with the school and is now a treasured segment of its history.*

*Called "the Holy Grail of tailgating sites" by Sporting News, **THE GROVE** is a 10-acre grassy plot of ground in the center of campus which is heavily shaded by large oak trees. Tens of thousands of fans turn out in ties and sundresses on fall Saturdays for elaborate tailgate parties in The Grove before football games. An unofficial motto is: "We may lose a game, but we never lose a party."*

*In 1998, a **WALK OF CHAMPIONS** arch was erected on the east side of the The Grove, where the Rebel players begin their walk for every home game. The "Walk of Champions" arch was given to the school by the 1962 Rebel football team, which is the only squad in Ole Miss football history to finish a campaign with a perfect record (10-0). The 1962 team won the SEC title and was also named National Champion by the Litkenhous Ratings.*




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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Gainesville, Fla. (Population 124,354)

Origin can be traced to 1853 when the East Florida Seminary was founded.

Enrollment **52,271**

Nickname **GATORS**

Colors **ORANGE AND BLUE**

All-Time Record **662-379-40**

Home Record **298-95-13**

Stadium **BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM ("THE SWAMP")**

Capacity **88,548** (Bermuda Grass)

Average Home Attendance **90,511**

Mascots **"ALBERT"** and **"ALBERTA"** (Costumed Alligators) A live alligator was once the mascot until the costumed version "Albert" took over in 1970. "Alberta" was added in 1986.

Football Coach **WILL MUSCHAMP**

Record at School **0-0**

Overall Record **0-0**

Bowl Record **19-19**

Most Recent **2011 OUTBACK BOWL**

National Championships **3** (Most Recent **2008**)

SEC Championships **8** (Most Recent **2008**)

Rivals **FLORIDA STATE** (The Governor's Cup)
GEORGIA (Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party)

Florida vs. Texas A&M

A&M's Record **1-1** (Most Recent **1977**)

Notable Game **1977 SUN BOWL**

#10 TEXAS A&M 37, #20 FLORIDA 14

Tony Franklin kicked three field goals, including an NCAA bowl-record 62-yarder, while the Aggie defense forced five Gator turnovers and held them to 27 total yards in the first half.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S TENNIS (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

2011: BASEBALL, MEN'S INDOOR TRACK, MEN'S GOLF, MEN'S/WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notable Alumni **EMMITT SMITH, ERIN ANDREWS, BOB GRAHAM, BOB VILA, FAYE DUNAWAY**

A short video showing alligators moving in on their prey, with the theme music from the movie "Jaws" playing in the background, is displayed on Florida's jumbotron video screen during every football game before the players come out of the tunnel. Gator athletes and fans will perform the **GATOR CHOMP** to symbolize the Gators' swallowing of their opponents.

In early summer of 1965, a Florida assistant coach met with a team of university physicians and asked them to determine why his players were being affected by heat related illnesses. The researchers soon discovered that the fluids and electrolytes the players lost through sweat were not being replaced, and the large amounts of carbohydrates the players' bodies used for energy were not being replenished. The researchers then took their findings into the lab, and scientifically formulated a new beverage that would replace the key components lost through sweating and exercise. They called their concoction **GATORADE**.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Athens, Ga. (Population 115,452)

Founded in 1785, it is one of multiple schools to claim the title of oldest public university in the US.

Enrollment **34,677**

Nickname **BULLDOGS**

Colors **RED AND BLACK**

All-Time Record **737-396-54**

Home Record **308-97-9**

Stadium **SANFORD STADIUM**

Capacity **92,746** (Grass)

Average Home Attendance **92,746**

Mascots **"UGA"** (Live English Bulldog) and

"HAIRY DAWG" (Costumed Bulldog)

There have been eight dogs to carry the name "Uga" and each is a descendant of the original.

Football Coach **MARK RICHT**

Record at School **96-34**

Overall Record **96-34**

Bowl Record **26-17-3**

Most Recent **2010 AUTOZONE LIBERTY BOWL**

National Championships **2** (Most Recent **1980**)

SEC Championships **12** (Most Recent **2005**)

Rivals **AUBURN** (Deep South's Oldest Rivalry)

FLORIDA (Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party)

GEORGIA TECH (Clean, Old-Fashioned Hate)

Georgia vs. Texas A&M

A&M's Record **3-2** (Most Recent **2009**)

Notable Game **1950 PRESIDENTIAL CUP**

TEXAS A&M 40, GEORGIA 20

Bob Smith opened the game with a 100-yard kickoff return for a score and added an 81-yard scoring run as A&M jumped to a 33-0 halftime lead on the way to a big win.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

EQUESTRIAN (2010)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING (2011)
MEN'S TENNIS (2011)

Notable Alumni **KIM BASINGER, RYAN SEACREST, HERSCHEL WALKER, DOMINIQUE WILKINS, PHIL GRAMM**

BETWEEN THE HEDGES is a reference to Sanford Stadium that dates back to the early 1930's. The famous Chinese privet hedges that surround Sanford's playing field were only one foot high when the stadium was dedicated in 1929 and were protected by a wooden fence. It was natural for a clever sports writer, referring to an upcoming home game, to observe "that the Bulldogs will have their opponent between the hedges."

The historic **ARCH** which sits on the edge of North campus was installed in 1864. For years, freshmen were forbidden to walk under the Arch. Violators risked punishment from upper classmen. Once rigidly enforced, the tradition of hazing of freshmen is no longer allowed. However, many freshmen still choose to honor the century-old tradition.

Considered by many to be the heart of the Bulldog spirit, the **REDCOAT BAND** has only had seven directors since its inception in 1909.





UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Lexington, Ky. (Population 295,803)
Founded in 1865 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky.

Enrollment **28,000**
Nickname **WILDCATS**
Colors **BLUE AND WHITE**

All-Time Record **573-565-44**
Home Record **130-108-4**

Stadium **COMMONWEALTH STADIUM**
Capacity **67,606** (Bermuda Grass)
Average Home Attendance **69,594**

Mascots **"BLUE"** (Live Bobcat)
"THE WILDCAT" (Costumed Wildcat)
"SCRATCH" (Child-Friendly Costumed Wildcat)

Football Coach **JOKER PHILLIPS**
Record at School **6-7**
Overall Record **6-7**

Bowl Record **8-7**
Most Recent **2011 BBVA COMPASS BOWL**

National Championships **1** (Most Recent **1950**)
SEC Championships **2** (Most Recent **1976**)

Rivals
LOUISVILLE (Battle for the Governor's Cup)
TENNESSEE (Battle for the Barrel)

Kentucky vs. Texas A&M
A&M's Record **1-1** (Most Recent **1953**)
The Aggies and the Wildcats have met twice on the football field in a home-and-home series. Kentucky won the first contest in College Station in 1952, 10-7, and A&M won the following year, 7-6, in Lexington.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)
RIFLE (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
MEN'S BASKETBALL (2010-11)
BASEBALL (2006)

Notable Alumni **ASHLEY JUDD, MITCH MCCONNELL, PAT RILEY, HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER, JOHN WALL, JAMAL MASHBURN**

Collectively, the fans of the Kentucky Wildcats are often referred to as the **BIG BLUE NATION**.

The nickname **WILDCATS** became synonymous with UK shortly after a 6-2 football road victory over Illinois in 1909. Commandant Philip W. Corbusier, then head of the military department at old State University, told a group of students in a chapel service following the game that the Kentucky football team had "fought like Wildcats." Later the name Wildcats became more and more popular among UK followers as well as with members of the media. As a result, the nickname was adopted by the University.

The **MEN'S BASKETBALL** team is the winningest program in the history of college basketball. Kentucky leads all NCAA schools in all-time winning percentage (.760) with an all-time record of 2017-636-1. The men's team has earned a total of seven NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championships.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, SC (Population 129,272)
Founded as South Carolina College in 1801 in an effort to promote harmony between the state's Lowcountry and Backcountry.

Enrollment **29,957**
Nickname **GAMECOCKS**
Colors **GARNET AND BLACK**

All-Time Record **543-541-44**
Home Record **252-177-14**

Stadium **WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM**
Capacity **80,250** (Grass)
Average Home Attendance **76,668**

Mascot **"COCKY"** (Costumed Gamecock)
Mascot of the Year in 1986, 1994 and 2004.

Football Coach **STEVE SPURRIER**
Record at School **44-33**
Overall Record **233-114-2**

Bowl Record **4-12**
Most Recent **2010 CHICK-FIL-A BOWL**

National Championships **0**
SEC Championships **0**

Rivals **CLEMSON** (The Palmetto Bowl)
GEORGIA (The Border Bash)

South Carolina vs. Texas A&M
The Aggies and Gamecocks have never met on the football field. In the 2011 College World Series, the A&M baseball team lost to eventual national champion South Carolina in the opening round, 5-4.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)
BASEBALL (2010, 2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)
BASEBALL (2011)
SOCCER (2009)

Notable Alumni **DARIUS RUCKER, MOOKIE WILSON, DAN REEVES, DAVID HOUSTON (PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M AND TEXAS)**

What is perhaps the most unique form of tailgating in the country, the **COCKABOOSE RAILROAD** caters to the serious Gamecock fan with amenities such as: running water, cable television, air conditioning and heating and a living room. The Carolina Cockabooses are stationary and many are wired with closed-circuit television to watch Gamecock away games if making the trip is not feasible.

The Sporting News rated USC's **2001** as the most exciting pregame entry in all of college football. As the minutes wind down prior to the opening kickoff, the Gamecocks assemble in the tunnel in the southwest corner of Williams-Brice Stadium. Then, as the crowd of more than 82,000 begins its roar of anticipation, the first notes of the theme song from "2001-A Space Odyssey" blare over the stadium sound system. As the music continues, the enthusiasm of the crowd is feverish. Finally, in perfect coordination with the music, the Gamecocks hit the field running, and the stadium goes wild.





UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Knoxville, Tenn. (Population 178,874)

In 1794, two years before Tennessee became a state, the school was chartered as Blount College.

Enrollment **27,523**

Nickname **VOLUNTEERS**

Colors **ORANGE AND WHITE**

All-Time Record **789-340-53**

Home Record **432-109-17**

Stadium **NEYLAND STADIUM ("ROCKY TOP")**

Capacity **102,455** (Grass)

Average Home Attendance **99,781**

Mascot **"SMOKEY"** (Live and Costumed Bluetick Coonhound)

Smokey II had an incident with Baylor's mascot Judge at the 1957 Sugar Bowl.

Football Coach **DEREK DOOLEY**

Record at School **6-7**

Overall Record **23-27**

Bowl Record **25-24**

Most Recent **2010 MUSIC CITY BOWL**

National Championships **6** (Most Recent **1998**)

SEC Championships **13** (Most Recent **1998**)

Rivals **ALABAMA** (Third Saturday in October)
KENTUCKY (Battle for the Barrel)

Tennessee vs. Texas A&M

A&M's Record **0-2** (Most Recent **2005**)

Notable Game **1957 GATOR BOWL**

#13 TENNESSEE 3, #9 TEXAS A&M 0

In Paul "Bear" Bryant's last game as head coach at A&M, Tennessee used a fourth-quarter field goal to defeat the beleaguered Aggies and Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow before a Gator Bowl record crowd of 43,709.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S INDOOR (2011)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2010-11)

SOFTBALL (2011)

Notable Alumni **REGGIE WHITE, PEYTON MANNING, AL GORE, PHIL GARNER**

At every home game, the **PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND BAND** performs the "March to the Stadium" which includes a parade sequence and climaxes when the band stops at the bottom of The Hill and performs the "Salute to the Hill," an homage to the history and legacy of the university. The band is known for its show at the beginning of every home game, which ends with the football team running onto the field through the **OPENING OF THE T**.

Although it is the most frequently played song at football games, **ROCKY TOP** is not the official fight song. The official fight song is "Down the Field," which is played when the Pride "Opens the T," as well as after a Vols score. "Rocky Top" was written in only ten minutes.

Unearthed in the 1960s, **THE ROCK** became a canvas for student messages. For years the university sandblasted away the messages but eventually deferred to students' artistic endeavors.



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Nashville, Tenn. (Population 635,710)

Established in 1873 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South from an endowment by Cornelius Vanderbilt – the richest man in the US at the time.

Enrollment **6,750**

Nickname **COMMODORES**

Colors **BLACK AND GOLD**

All-Time Record **557-568-50**

Home Record **60-107-1**

Stadium **VANDERBILT STADIUM**

Capacity **39,773** (Grass)

Average Home Attendance **33,269**

Mascot **"MR. C"** (Costumed Commodore)

Portrayed as a naval officer from the 19th century, complete with mutton chops, cutlass and uniform.

Football Coach **JAMES FRANKLIN**

Record at School **0-0**

Overall Record **0-0**

Bowl Record **2-1-1**

Most Recent **2008 MUSIC CITY BOWL**

National Championships **0**

SEC Championships **0**

Rivals

TENNESSEE

OLE MISS

Vanderbilt vs. Texas A&M

The Aggies and Commodores have never met on the football field.

Last National Championship (Non-Football)

WOMEN'S BOWLING (2007)

Recent SEC Championships (Non-Football)

BASEBALL (2011)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2009)

Notable Alumni **MOLLY SIMS, JOE BOB**

BRIGGS, AMY GRANT, FRED THOMPSON

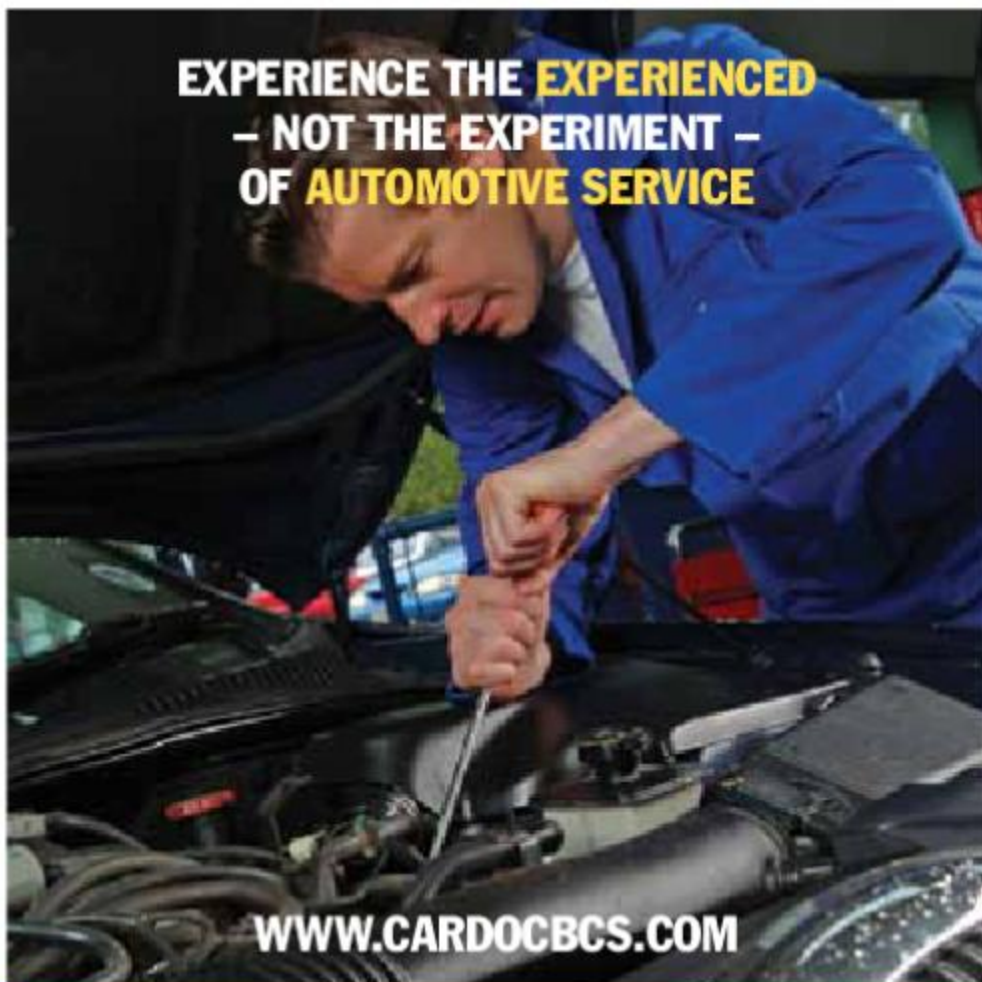
Vanderbilt is currently the only Division 1 school without a separate athletic department. It was disbanded in 2003.

Vanderbilt has a number of football traditions: the **COMMODORE CREED** in the football locker room; the **CORRIDOR OF CAPTAINS** that honors Vanderbilt's athletics history; the **STAR WALK** with fans, cheerleaders, and the Spirit of Gold Marching Band; the **STAR V**, an on-field formation by the marching band; the **TOUCHDOWN FOGHORN** from a U.S. Navy battleship that sounds when Vanderbilt scores; **FRESHMAN WALK** by first-year students rushing the football field before kickoff of each season's home open; the **VICTORY FLAG** that is raised over Dudley Field after home wins; and the singing of the **ALMA MATER** at the conclusion of a game.

The Vanderbilt fight song, **DYNAMITE**, references the vigor with which Vanderbilt plays and the enthusiasm of the university's fans, who cheer regardless of the outcome of the game. **AI**



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PATRICK LEWIS (JR)
LaPlace, La.

"If I had eleven Patrick Lewises I would never lose a football game. When he leaves, it will be an emotional day for me."

— HEAD COACH MIKE SHERMAN

Patrick Lewis never thought he would have the opportunity to play Division 1 football. The Louisiana native was not heavily recruited by LSU and other D1 schools because of his height.

However, things changed when East St. John HS coach Larry Dauterive contacted his good friend Mike Sherman about some prospects he thought the Aggies needed to see. The A&M head coach sent then-defensive line coach and area recruiter Buddy Wyatt to visit the school and pick up some film. However, Lewis wasn't expecting anything out of the visit because of everything the other big schools had said.

"I was just thinking, whatever — they are probably going to brush me off and I'll play ball at a small school," Lewis recalled.

A couple of days later, Lewis received a call from a 979 area code, not knowing who it could be. Wyatt was on the other line telling Lewis that he wanted him to visit because Sherman wanted to see him in person. Two days later, Lewis got a scholarship offer from the Aggies.

"I was surprised Coach Sherman offered me, being the man that he is with the Packers and NFL prominence," Lewis recalled. "I knew I had to come here."

Fellow Louisiana natives Jonathan Stewart and Michael Lamothe joined Lewis in the Aggies' 2009 signing class, as Sherman made recruiting the Pelican State one of his top priorities when he took the job.

"You have to have Louisiana on your team," Lewis said. "Not just to have success because you could stay in Texas for success, but it adds another spice."

As a true freshman, Lewis saw action in 12 of the Aggies' 13 games in 2009. He made his first career start at guard in the fifth game of the year against Oklahoma State and hasn't left the starting lineup since. As a cornerstone of A&M's offen-

THE CENTER OF SUCCESS

Junior Patrick Lewis anchors one of the most explosive offenses in Texas A&M history

BY KAYLIE MYNAR '12

sive front, Lewis earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors as a freshman in 2009 and again in 2010 after starting all 13 games as a sophomore.

With Matt Allen graduating last year, Lewis knew a move to center was coming for his junior season. He was ready when spring football practice started, but didn't take the initiative to tell offensive line coach Jim Turner he was ready to take the position. However, when the coaches called upon him towards the end of the spring, he was ready for the challenge.

"I was steady in my guard position, but when the coaches asked me, 'Patrick, do you want to play center today?' there was no second guessing."

The vocal aspect of the position was the toughest part for Lewis to adjust to. He had to make all the calls, make sure everyone was in the right spot, and take on a leadership role and the responsibility of the offensive line.

"It was shocking at first," Lewis admitted. "But Danny Baker and I worked together to get everything down. I'm really happy about the role I'm taking on this football team."

The A&M offense continues to put up record numbers this season and Lewis is a big reason why. His power and understanding of the game has made the transition from guard to center go smoothly.

"If I had eleven Patrick Lewises I would never lose a football game," Sherman said. "When he leaves, it will be an emotional day for me."

Lewis thinks that highly of his coach, as well.

"He gave me the chance to play in big time college football and I will really appreciate that until the day I die," Lewis said. "I'll be able to tell my kids that my first BCS offer came from Coach Sherman. It was a blessing that he came into my life and gave me this opportunity." **AI**

Patrick Lewis on wearing No. 61:

I originally wanted No. 77, but Lucas Patterson had it, so I picked 61 for my best friend, Antonio Verese, because he didn't have an opportunity to play football after high school.

Patrick Lewis on food:

I don't cook, but I will eat anything you put in front of me. I could eat jambalaya and crawfish étouffée every day.

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TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL REWIND

[GAME 1: A&M 46, SMU 14]



RYAN SWOPE (JR)
Austin, Tex.



▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME [SMU]

WR Ryan Swope dives for the end zone to put the Aggies up 27-14 on SMU in the second quarter. QB Ryan Tannehill found Swope four times on this key drive for 53 yards, including the 28-yard TD. Swope led A&M's receivers with eight receptions for 109 yards and a score as the No. 8 Aggies defeated the Mustangs, 46-14 in front of 86,951 – the largest crowd in a season-opener at Kyle Field in school history.

OFFENSIVE MVP: WR Ryan Swope (8-109, 1 TD)

DEFENSIVE MVP: DE Tony Jerod-Eddie (6 tackles, 3 sacks)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: K Randy Bullock (2-2 FGs)



RYAN TANNEHILL (SR)
Big Spring, Tex.

[GAME 2: A&M 37, IDAHO 7]

PHOTO OF THE GAME [IDAHO] ►

LB Sean Porter partially blocks Bobby Cowan's punt in the 2nd half of A&M's 37-7 victory over Idaho. Porter and the Aggie defense shut down the Vandals' offense for most of the game, forcing 10 punts and two of 14 on third downs. Idaho's only score came late in the fourth quarter against A&M's second string defense.

OFFENSIVE MVP: QB Ryan Tannehill (26-39, 337 yds, 2 TDs)

DEFENSIVE MVP: LB Sean Porter (5 tackles, 1 sack, 2.5 TFLs)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: K Randy Bullock (3-4 FGs)



SEAN PORTER (JR)
Schertz, Tex.



RYAN TANNEHILL (SR)
Big Spring, Tex.

PHOTO OF THE GAME [OKLAHOMA STATE]▶

WR Jeff Fuller's first catch of the game was a 17-yard TD connection with QB Ryan Tannehill to put the Aggies ahead 17-3 early in the second quarter against Oklahoma State. Building on his own school record, his first TD catch of 2011 was the 29th of his career. Fuller added his 30th career TD catch late in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough as A&M lost a heartbreaker to the Cowboys, 30-29.

OFFENSIVE MVP: WR Jeff Fuller (6-55, 2 TDs)

DEFENSIVE MVP: LB Sean Porter (8 tackles, 2 sacks, 2.5 TFLs)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: K Randy Bullock (2-2 FGs)

▼ PHOTO OF THE GAME [ARKANSAS]

WR Ryan Swope took a short pass from QB Ryan Tannehill and turned it into a 44-yard gain, hurdling two Arkansas defenders along the way. Swope finished with five catches for 92 yards. Texas A&M roared to a 35-17 halftime lead, but a disastrous second half resulted in another disappointing loss to a top ten team, 42-38.

OFFENSIVE MVP: RB Christine Michael (32-230, 3 TDs)

DEFENSIVE MVP: LB Sean Porter (4 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 TFLs)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: KR Cyrus Gray (6-116)

RYAN SWOPE (JR)
Austin, Tex.



[GAME 4: ARKANSAS 42, A&M 38]

JEFF FULLER (SR)
McKinney, Tex.



[GAME 3: OSU 30, A&M 29]

CHRISTINE MICHAEL (JR)
Beaumont, Tex.



[GAME 5: A&M 45, TEXAS TECH 40]



RYAN TANNEHILL (SR)
Big Spring, Tex.



DUSTIN HARRIS (JR)
Livingston, Tex.

▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME [TEXAS TECH]

QB Ryan Tannehill runs for one of his two TDs on the ground against Texas Tech. With the Aggies clinging to a 31-23 third-quarter lead, CB Dustin Harris made the play of the game for Texas A&M when he flashed off the edge to block a 50-yard field goal attempt. His block was scooped up by CB Terrence Frederick and returned 65 yards for a TD. The No. 24 Aggies hung on to beat the Red Raiders, 45-40.

OFFENSIVE MVP: RB Cyrus Gray (21-116, 1 TD)

DEFENSIVE MVP: CB Terrence Frederick (8 tackles, 1.5 TFLs, 2 PBUs)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: CB Dustin Harris (FG block)



RYAN SWOPE (JR)
Austin, Tex.

[GAME 6: A&M 55, BAYLOR 28]



DAMONTRE MOORE (SO)
Lawlett, Tex.

▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME [BAYLOR]

WR Ryan Swope scores his fourth TD of the game as he dives into the end zone against Baylor. Swope, QB Ryan Tannehill (6 TDs) and the rest of the offense put up huge numbers against the Bears' defense while the A&M defense applied enough pressure to QB Robert Griffin III and made key stops to help put the game out of reach in the fourth quarter. The Aggies won the 108th and possible final Battle of the Brazos, 55-28.

OFFENSIVE MVP: WR Ryan Swope (11-206, 4 TDs)

DEFENSIVE MVP: JOKER Damontre Moore (4 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 2.5 TFLs)

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP: K Randy Bullock (2-2 FGs)



8 QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR BEN BASS

What did you have to do in order to get back on the team last fall after becoming academically ineligible?

I had completed a lot of hours from Blinn, but the grades did not transfer – only the credits. So I had to complete 19 hours with straight A's in order to be able to play football again. I did it and from there, it was just doing what I needed to do to graduate. I only had two more semesters of classes to take and then I graduated in May. Now I'm trying to get in to the Master of Real Estate program.

How have you progressed on the field?

When I got here I was last string. Between the first day and second day of practice, I went from last string to first string. Then they moved

Lucas Patterson to my position, so I backed him up and primarily played on third downs. I was in our starting nickel group last year and again this year. I guess you could call me the fourth guy on the defensive line.

Do you like your role on the defense?

Yes, it's a lot of fun. Coach Williams has a great rotation for us. You can play your heart out when you are out there and you should never get tired because we rotate six or seven guys all of the time.

How has Coach Williams helped you?

He's the first defensive line coach I've had here that has emphasized physicality. Coach Wyatt was a good coach, but he was more of a quickness guy. Coach Williams and Coach DeRuyter are more focused on engaging blocks, getting off blocks and making the tackle. Just being more physical all the way around.

What younger guys on the defensive line have impressed you?

Gavin Stansbury is a guy like me. His role right now is to come in on third downs and pass rush. He can play the run, but he's an under-sized guy who needs to add some weight to really hold up against the run when we play

teams like Oklahoma and Arkansas. Ben Compton reminds me a lot of Lucas Patterson. He's like a little mini Lucas. His facial expressions and the way he acts are very similar to Lucas. He's a hard working guy.

What are your favorite techniques when rushing the passer?

The bull rush and the spin move. They are two completely different moves, but they seem to set each other up very nicely.

Do you have a different perspective because of what you went through?

I guess I might appreciate it a little more since I lost the opportunity to play and then got it back. But a lot of guys come from disadvantaged places and appreciate where they are now so I'm not sure I appreciate it that much more than they do.

Do you use your experience to help the younger guys stay focused?

Definitely. My little brother Justin joined the team this year and I try to help keep him on track as well as the other defensive line guys. I tell them if you need to go to class, you better go to class. It might be a pain now, but it pays off in the end. **AT**

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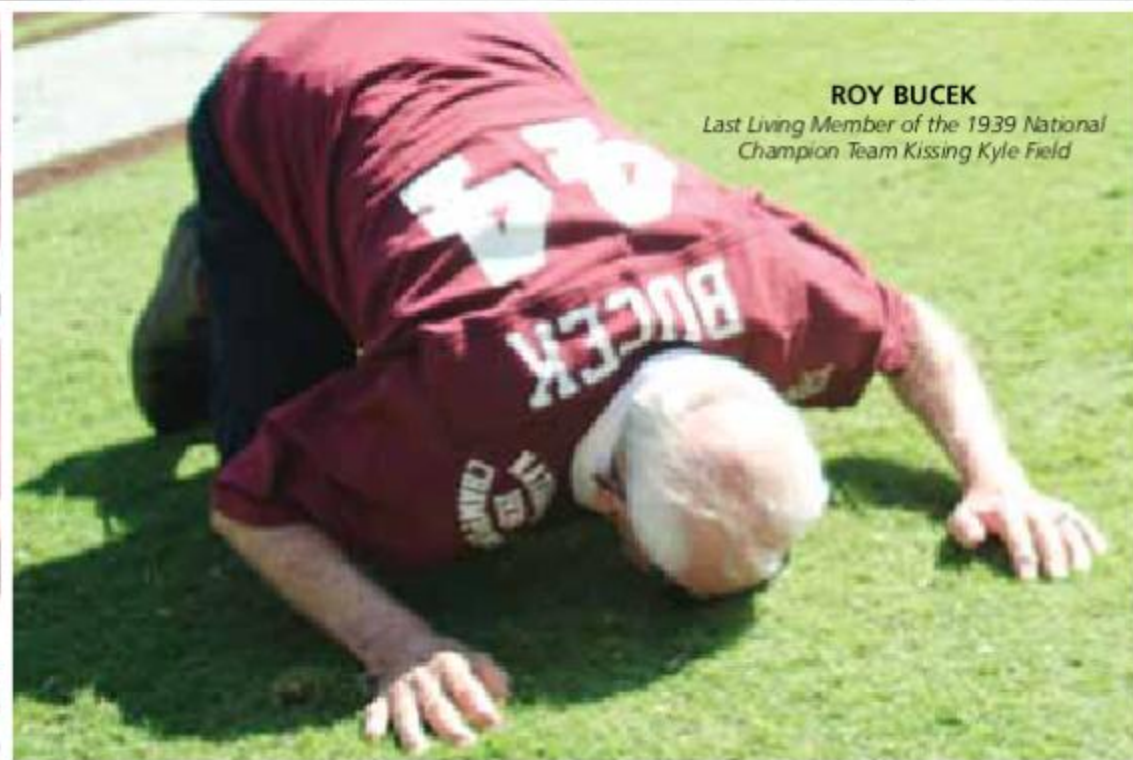
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BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

CYCLING

A lot of kids grow up riding their bikes to school or to their friends' houses. The freedom to go whenever, wherever makes a child and his bicycle nearly inseparable. That is until they get their hands on a set of car keys. That's when the bike ends up collecting dust in the corner of the garage.

However, for Andrew Carlberg '12 and this group of current students, rarely does a day go by when they aren't riding their bicycles somewhere around Aggieland. Carlberg is the president of the Texas A&M cycling team – one of the most popular sport clubs on campus.

The club was founded in 1976 as a competitive cycling team, and in 1977, it was recognized by the University Extramural Sports Association. Today, the team is as strong as ever, competing in the South Central Collegiate Cycling Conference with 16 schools in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Each semester, there are five or more weekends of races hosted by the various schools in the conference. The Aggies compete in four categories – road (spring), mountain (fall), track (summer) and cyclocross. After the season, the team sends several riders to nationals to compete in each of the disciplines.

Membership to the team is open to anyone, but only full-time Texas A&M students are eligible to compete in collegiate races.

"About 60 percent of our members do their first race through the team," Carlberg said. "We don't have a coach so it's up to the older riders to teach things like tactics and how to train properly. Through this mix of new and experienced cyclists there is really a spot on the team for everyone."

There isn't a requirement on how much you have to train, but the team organizes daily rides for anyone who wants to tag along and get a workout in. Some days are harder than others and on Tuesdays, the team simulates a race. Carlberg tries to train almost every day for a total of about 10 to 15 hours on the bike a week.

"My favorite part about the team is the amount of fun we have," Carlberg said. "Meetings are generally funny, trips are always memorable and hilarious and the amount of friends you make is amazing."

MEN'S WATER POLO

If you are a fan of Olympic sports, you have likely watched water polo competitions at the highest level. Men's water polo has been part of the Summer Olympics program since the second games, in 1900.

At Texas A&M, men's water polo is one of the most unique clubs on campus. Unlike nearly every other club, the members never have to pay any dues. The Aggies are funded by Kyle Field Cleanup, which occurs Sunday mornings following home football games.

"Water Polo used to be a varsity sport at A&M," explains club president Max Bernau '13, "however in 1972, when Title IX was signed into law, water polo got bumped to a club program. To offset this loss, the university gave us Kyle Field Cleanup. To this day, the water polo team still runs the cleanup of Kyle Field after every home football game and it's a privilege for which we are thankful."


In the water, the Aggies are one of the top collegiate programs in the country, competing in the eight-team Texas Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association. They play three tournaments in the fall excluding nationals. The first place team in Texas moves on to the national championship.

The team practices two hours a day, four days a week. Usually they begin with swim sets and then strengthen their legs by treading water while holding weights. The rest of practice is spent running drills and scrimmaging. Most of the members played water polo in high school or with a club team, but anyone is welcome to try out.

"A good water polo player needs strong legs to tread water during the game," Bernau said. "Endurance is key as swimming can be very strenuous. As with any team sport, water polo players must be able to work together and pass the ball around in order to get a good shot on the goal."

In addition to being a fun way to work out, the club is a great way to meet friends.

"My favorite thing about playing polo for Texas A&M is the competition and camaraderie," Bernau said.

Visit recsports.tamu.edu for more information about Texas A&M cycling or men's water polo. 



SECede!



Howdy!

Although some students are concerned how we will fair in the SEC, most are more than excited for the change and understand the various advantages of moving to the nation's premier conference.

Considering the numerous national titles A&M has either won or contended for recently, I think the Aggies will do more than hold their own. Let's be serious – football is what's on everybody's mind, and I think it's important to recognize how far we've come in such short time. I remember my freshman year going 4-8 (Fall '08), then how excited everyone was just to make a bowl game the next season. With recruiting at an all time high and an A-list coaching staff, I believe things will only go up from here.

"As far as the SEC move goes, I think it's two-fold. Both the SEC and A&M will benefit from the move. It establishes us as the only school in the SEC within Texas, this will be HUGE for us in recruiting. For the SEC, they get a passionate fan base that blends in perfectly with the attitudes and culture of the SEC. We not only bring a rising football team, but other great athletic programs that have had recent national success. We also bring our great academic reputation."

– TAYLOR ANDRUS '12



"I'm excited about the opportunity to road trip. I'm anticipating the drive with friends to Tuscaloosa, Baton Rouge and Fayetteville. I've never considered making a drive to Lubbock or Waco. I'm also happy to be headed to a conference where there is a greater sense of equality among schools, getting away from a Texas-ran Big 12."

– DONAIMIAN HANKSTON '11



Of course leaving the Big 12 means leaving behind old standing rivalries that we will all miss (or not). It's safe to say the student population did not take well to the negative light that was being cast upon A&M by Baylor during the Aggies' move to the SEC. These "It Sucks to BU" shirts, for sale at Aggieland Outfitters, would be appropriate to wear for all remaining games against Baylor.



A friend of mine who recently graduated from A&M and is now attending law school at Baylor offered her opinion:



"I'm proud of Texas A&M's leaders for taking the initiative and doing what they believe is right for our university. I receive 'Baylor pride' emails to my student account, and there have been many official statements by Baylor

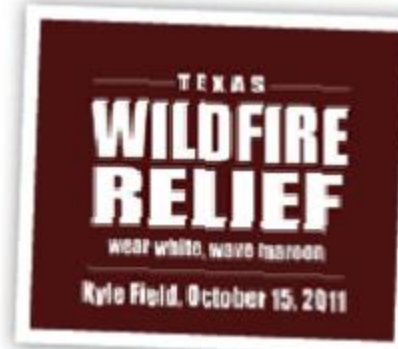
leaders accusing A&M of 'setting a bad example for the young minds on campus and causing an anarchy in college athletics.' I would have more respect for Baylor's efforts if they would acknowledge they are acting with the same incentives as Texas A&M, to stay in the most profitable, recognizable conference available to them. The defamatory remarks about A&M's decisions are unnecessary and highly hypocritical. If Baylor was capable of entering the SEC Conference, let's face it, the Big 12 would be saying bye to their Baptists."

– KATIE BEARD '11

Speaking of the Baylor game, a Texas A&M student group made up of representatives from over 25 campus organizations created Aggie Wildfire Relief to raise funds through the sale of maroon 12th Man towels for the Aggies' game against the Bears to help the victims and volunteer firefighters affected by the recent wildfires across Texas. I hope it rang a bell with the angry Bear fans that Texas A&M DOES first and foremost have loyalty to our great state.

That said, all we can do is look forward now. Make sure you are following us on twitter @aggiemag and 'Like' us on our facebook page: "Aggieland Illustrated Magazine."

Thanks & Gig'em!
– Macy



Editor's Note: In this new regular feature, AI's fantastic intern and social media superstar Macy Savage '12 gives you a pulse on Aggieland from current students' perspectives.

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